

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6816

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4475

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ET UN

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN VETERANS ON KOREAN WAR BONUS ISSUE

REF: ADDIS 9374

STATE 178120

USUN 2867

1. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT ETHIOPIAN MISSION HERE RAISED WITH US IN AUGUST ISSUE OF PAYMENT OF BONUS TO MEMBERS OF ETHIOPIAN CONTINGENT UNC DURING KOREAN WAR. AT THAT TIME WE ADVISED ETHIOPIAN MISSION THAT US HAD NOT PLAYED ANY ROLE IN BONUS ISSUE AND SUGGESTED THEY COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH UN SECRETARIAT (REFTEL 3).

2. IN ADDITION TO RECENT REQUEST FROM ETHIOPIAN CHARGE FOR CLARIFICATION (FYI: WE UNDERSTAND REQUEST COMES DIRECTLY FROM ETHIOPIAN FONMIN GABRE-SELLASSIE.) WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER DATED OCT 17 FROM UN ACTING CONTROLLER ZIEHL WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR APPROPRIATE REPLY TO ZIEHL, AS WELL AS TO ETHIOPIAN MISSION. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS.

AS LONG AS TWO MONTHS' AGO I HEARD FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING DIRECTLY FROM THE REPS OF THE GOVT, OF ETHIOPIA, THAT RUMOURS WERE BEING CIRCULATED THAT THE UN HAD MADE SPECIAL PAYMENTS TO THE GOVT OF ETHIOPIA (AND PRESUMABLY CONFIDENTIAL

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TO OTHER GOVTS AS WELL) OF AMOUNTS WHICH WERE TO BE

PASSED ON TO ITS TROOPS WHICH SERVED AS A PART OF UN FORCE IN KOREA. I HAVE MADE A CAREFUL CHECK HERE AT THE UN AND FIND THAT NO SUCH PAYMENTS WERE MADE.

BECAUSE THIS IS A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE TO THE ETHIOPIAN GOVT, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ASCERTAIN AND ADVISE ME CONCLUSIVELY WHETHER, BY ANY CHANCE, THE US GOVT MADE ANY SUCH PAYMENTS TO THE NATIONALS OF COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE US FOR THEIR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE KOREAN OPERATION. THE RUMOUR HAS IT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SUCH PAYMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN MADE FOR OVERSEAS ALLOWANCES, DEATH BENEFITS, DISABILITY BENEFITS, OR ITEMS OF THIS TYPE. THE ALLEGED BENEFITS WOULD HAVE BEEN THOSE DESTINED TO THE INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER FROM EITHER THE UN OR A COUNTRY OTHER THAN HIS OWN, ALTHOUGH THE ALLEGED PAYMENTS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH THE GOVT OF THE COUNTRY FROM WHICH SUCH SOLDIERS CAME TO THE KOREAN FORCE.

MAY I SAY THAT I HATE TO BOTHER YOU WITH THIS MATTER DURING THE PRESSURES OF THE GA, BUT YOU ARE AT LIBERTY IF IT WOULD FACILITATE MATTERS TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS LETTER DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON SO THAT IT DOES NOT CAUSE YOU PERSONALLY ANY ADDITIONAL WORK. WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO ASK WASHINGTON TO SEND A COPY OF ITS REPLY TO THIS INQUIRY TO: DR. GABRE-SELLASSIE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ETHIOPIA, C/O PERMANENT MISSION OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UN, 866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, ROOM 560, NEW YORK, NY, 10017.

SINCERELY,
W H ZIEHL
ACTING CONTROLLER

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Message Attributes

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